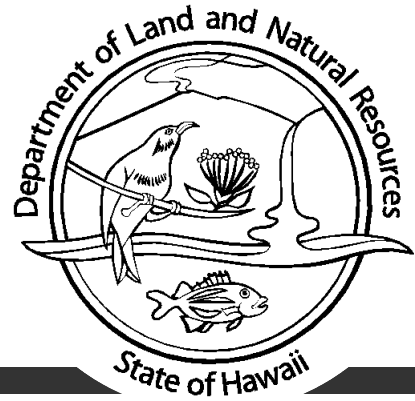


Public Information Office
Kalanimoku Building, Room 130
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Deborah Ward, 587-0320 (pgr. 363-0448)
January 14, 2000
00-06



MANOA FALLS TRAIL TO CLOSE JANUARY 20-21 FOR TREE REMOVAL

The popular Manoa Falls trail will be closed temporarily to the public by Department of Land and Natural Resources on Thursday, January 20 and Friday January 21, to allow removal of a fallen tree from the Manoa Falls trail parking area. Both DLNR and the Honolulu Board of Water Supply are landowners in the vicinity of the fallen tree, and are working together on those days to remove the tree.

In early December 1999, a very large, old banyan tree estimated at 80 to 100 feet high was uprooted and fell during a rainstorm. Parts of the tree were cut back and cleared to allow temporary access to the trail head. However, the tree still poses a public safety hazard, and is blocking the adjacent Manoa Stream waterway.

Aaron Lowe, DLNR O'ahu trails and access specialist for the Na Ala Hele Trails and Access Program, said, "Because of the amount of use this trail receives and the precarious way the tree is still hanging over the parking lot, we had no choice but to notify the Board of Water Supply and work together on the closure of the trail and removal of the tree. We want to stress safety, and prevent any possible injury or damage to persons, vehicles and property. We apologize for any temporary inconvenience to the public this may cause."

Manoa Falls trail will reopen to the public on Saturday, January 22.

###